

THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1.
Number 4

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1907.

Five Cents a copy
\$1 for the season

SPIRIT OF ECONOMY PASSED FROM SENATE

**Watch Dog Went to Sleep On the Mat and Hastily
the Committee Clerk Plums Were Shaken Down—
President Harris Called It Expediting Legislation.**

For a time yesterday the spirit of economy prevailed in the Senate at a rate of 14 to 14, the occasion when Senator Sams moved a reconsideration of the vote of Tuesday on the resolution to employ two stenographers for the Senate.

Senator Broome, who has stepped into the watch dog role, mildly insinuated that lobbyists had been at work, and the tender sympathies of the Senator from the Twenty-eighth District had been aroused to a degree that prompted the movement.

Having killed the reconsideration the watch dog went to sleep on the mat, and although the rush of resolutions providing for committee clerks fairly piled up around him, he was not disturbed by the onrush, though he shuddered several times.

No, there was no protest from Senator Broome against extravagance in the matter of appointing these clerks, though perhaps he was not to blame, as they came so fast he may have been unable to get to his feet in advance of Senator Trammell, who broke in on the President's railroading of one of the resolutions and which proved to be the last for the day, owing perhaps to the protest.

The resolution, which provided a clerk for the committees on Privileges and Elections, Forestry, and Organized Labor, carried, however, Senator Crews saying the clerks were needed and the Senate accepting his view.

The clerks of those committees will, perhaps, not have more than five or six bills to look after during the entire session.

President Harris plead guilty of rushing the bills through, but disclaimed his intention of harmful legislation, thinking that his haste was merely the expedient of expediency.

Senator Trammell declared that so many clerks was wilful extravagance. It was an expenditure of money for which no good could be secured for the people, as many of the clerkships were sinecures, but few bills coming into their hands.

The haste with which the resolutions were jammed through indicated an eagerness for quick payment of political debts.

Of the committees provided with clerks yesterday the Judiciary handled four-fifths of the bills of the session. The resolution of Senator Massey, Tuesday, concerning engrossed bills, cuts down the work of that committee as snail's pace.

A high estimate of the work of the City and County Organization Committee would be from fifteen to twenty bills.

One clerk is allotted to the Committee on Rules and Committee on Public Roads and Highways. The work of the clerk of the Committee on Rules will be to report the amendments offered by Senator Massey Tuesday, and that will be all for the session. A half dozen bills for the consideration of the Committee on Public Roads and Highways is a liberal estimate.

The clerk of the Committees on State Affairs, Public Printing and Immigration is another having an easy time, very few bills coming his way.

Next to the Judiciary Committee the Appropriations Committee has more work to perform, work that has to be done and then undone until the bills are finally accepted.

The Committees on Canals and Telegraphs and Public Lands have one clerk between them. Ten bills may be the extent of the labors of both committees.

One clerk is provided for Committees on Privileges and Elections, Forestry and Organized Labor. If more than five bills are handled by these committees in aggregate than it will be an exceptional session.

Senator Trammell evidently had all these conditions in mind when he protested, not only against the extravagance, but the haste with which it was being perpetrated.

Forty-one bills were introduced in the Senate yesterday, the principal ones being a franchise tax bill, introduced by Senator Trammell, uniform text book bills by Senators McCreary and Crane, and several bills providing for railway legislation. Among the latter were one for separate accommodations for white and black races on railway trains, by Senator Trammell, and separate waiting rooms by Senator Hudson.

A bill providing for a State geological survey and a State Geologist was introduced by Senator Crill.

The uniform text books bills make

the situation practically the same as last session.

Senator Crane's bill is the same as in the Legislature of 1905, while that of Senator McCreary is but slightly changed, and some modifications having been made in it in imitation of features of the Crane bill.

The Crane bill has been advocated by those who wanted practical, economical uniformity, while the bill of Senator McCreary is the bill the American Book Company always wants passed when it is not possible to prevent enactment of a uniform law.

The Secretary of State sent to the Senate the following communication, concerning the resolution to provide committee rooms, and it was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of a communication from the Senate calling my attention to Senate Resolution No. 57, adopted May 30, 1905, which reads as follows:

"The Secretary of State is directed to have the rooms now occupied by the Railroad Commission, and the rooms occupied by the Adjutant General, vacated before the coming of the next Legislature, that the same may be used by the Senate Committees during the Legislative session of 1907."

Section 78 of the General Statutes, 1906, provides that "under the direction of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of State . . . to assign their respective rooms to State officers . . . and to provide committee rooms for the Legislature, not less than four in number, being two for the Senate and two for the House of Representatives."

The Constitution of the State of Florida, Article IV, Section 21, provides that the Secretary of State shall have charge of the Capitol Building.

Under Section 78 of the General Statutes, quoted above, I have assigned the rooms in question to the Railroad Commissioners and the Adjutant General, who are State officers. The same act requires that two rooms be set apart for the use of the Senate as committee rooms. Four rooms have been provided for this purpose. It does not appear to be within the power of the Secretary of State to remove State officers and their official records from any room in the Capitol Building. The resolution above quoted confers no such power.

Senator Cottrell, who had been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Winburn, of the Twelfth District, was sworn in by Justice Parkhill, and after the passage of a bill by Senator Buckman, providing that a grand jury may consist of from 12 to 18 jurors, the Senate adjourned until 10 a. m. today.

T. A. JENNINGS FOR GOVERNOR, INTIMATED.

The Pensacola will say today that Hon. T. A. Jennings, of that city, has made statements as to his candidacy for Governor of the State.

He intimates that he will be a candidate in the primaries, next spring, if conditions present themselves in a favorable light at the proper time. He says that he has no desire to precipitate the campaign by an official announcement at this time. It is only because he has been so strongly urged by his friends to make some statement of his intentions in order that they might do nothing that would embarrass them in case of the subsequent announcement of his candidacy.

In the interview had with him he gave expression to the fact that he has never yet tried to dodge an issue, and while interested financially in private corporations yet he has steadfastly maintained his position that corporate influence in politics is bad and in every campaign in this State, where the issue has been upon this point, he has taken his stand on the people's side. He makes a distinction between public service corporations, seeking special privileges, and mere private corporations.

He would have foreign capitalists feel that their investments in Florida are as safe as they would be in any other State, while at the same time he would warn them that no interference, as corporations, with the political affairs of the State would be tolerated.

He has never depended upon politics for a living and has never been a candidate for any office with which any fee or salary was attached and is a firm believer in the theory that the office should seek the man, and not the man the office. This course he has followed consistently in his past political life.

HE WANTED TO FIND OUT

**Story of the Wandering
Bill and How It Got Out
of the Senate and Who
Wanted It.**

"Side by side with the two most insidious and dangerous elements entering into the work of the Legislature, are the lobbyist and the 'grafting' legislator. In every State of the Union the subject has called forth the strongest denunciation; and the revelations brought forth in many instances show that they have in no case been too strong or severe."

With the above paragraph Governor Broward enters the subject of lobbying in his message, which appeared in The Senate Journal yesterday.

At the time the Journals with this message were on the desks of the Senators, a person who may or may not be a lobbyist, or who may or may not be a spotter or spy for some corporation or concern that is interested in the legislation to be enacted in the Florida Senate but who certainly acts in the character set down at the close in the gaze of the President and the chief attaches of the Senate.

His work here was harmless enough. When the list of committees was read he begged the official copy of the list, and set to work to make a copy of himself.

When bills relating to railway control were introduced, this man took notice, and when the bill providing for a franchise tax was introduced he became real interested, and after the Senate adjourned his efforts to secure a copy of the bill were many.

The man who is so deeply interested in the legislation of this State is Roger B. Atkinson, of Atlanta.

Why he should be so interested is another story which perhaps none but himself can tell. Since his arrival in the city several days ago he has devoted much time to prowling about the Capitol, and his first inquiry about legislation was made of a stenographer, whom he told how he could get copies of bills as soon as introduced.

After adjournment yesterday afternoon he inquired of a gentleman on the Senate floor how he could secure the railway and franchise bills and if he could get them from the Secretary of the Senate.

He received no information that would help him, but continued his search for a way to get the desired documents, and finally did get hold of Senate Bill No. 4, through the offices of a man representing an out-of-town paper, who went to the Bill Secretary and asked him for the bill, the title of which is: "Authorizing the Railroad Commission of the State of Florida to Employ Special Counsel."

The Bill Secretary, being new to his position, thoughtlessly complied with the request, with the result that when the Secretary of the Senate began making up his journal the bill was gone and consternation prevailed until the bill was restored to its proper place in the Senate Chamber.

As said, the reasons for Mr. Atkinson being so anxious to acquire information of proposed legislation in this State are unknown, but if for an innocent purpose, he is certainly spending much time and energy to secure information he could have for the asking by merely waiting a short time.

The incident of the wandering bill will, however, give a timely hint to those in the Legislature who have official documents in their possession, not to release them to any person not rightfully empowered.

BILL TO TAX FRANCHISES

Following are the principal sections, excepting one, which is reviewed, of the franchise tax bill, introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Trammell:

Section 8 provides that the term "special franchise," as used in the Act, shall include every right and privilege exercised within this State granted to any person, partnership, corporation, etc., and is so sweeping in its provisions that every ground is covered.

Section 1. That on or before the first Monday in March in each and every year, every person, partnership or corporation holding or owning or exercising any special franchise or franchises within this State whether granted by this State or not, shall make a special return, sworn to by such person or member of such partnership, or by the president vice-president or secretary of such corporation, to the Comptroller of the State of Florida, stating the value of said franchise as exercised within this State,

BATTLE CHARGE OF I. I. INVESTIGATORS

**Want to Dig Deep Into Records of Trustees—One
Resolution Died of Cold and Neglect—Bill to Abolish
Capital Punishment Will Be Introduced.**

Immediately after the House was called to order yesterday morning the message of the Governor, containing his request for an investigation of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, was received and read.

Hon. Syd L. Carter, Representative from Alachua, obtained the floor and spoke of the many articles printed against the conduct of the Trustees and the criticism provoked thereby, and declared that he, for one, would urge going as deeply into the matter as possible.

If the State officials composing the Board of Trustees were guilty of misconduct, as alleged, then articles of impeachment should be formulated against them, but if, on the other hand, the charges were without foundation then a way should be found to punish their detractors.

Mr. Carter offered a resolution, providing for a joint committee, composed of three members of the Senate and four of the House to investigate the Trustees of the I. I. Fund, and it was adopted.

Requesting the Trustees to stop work on the Everglades drainage project, was the subject of a resolution offered by Representative Dorman. No enthusiasm was excited by the measure, and even Mr. Dorman did not see fit to give it oratorical support.

The resolution that beseechingly asked the Trustees to desist from the drainage work, tie up the dredges and quit scratching the surface of the earth in the Everglades, was overflowing with hearty feeling that when the Trustees heard its expression they would be overwhelmed with a desire to cease work. At least that is evidently what the author of the resolution probably had in mind when he linked the words together that gave it being.

as of the first day of January, and particularly describing the same, accompanying said return, with a certified copy of every statute, ordinance, resolution, charter, contract or grant under and by authority of which said franchises are held, claimed or owned; provided, nevertheless, that where such certified copies have once been filed with or returned to the Comptroller, it shall not be necessary in any subsequent annual return to duplicate the same, unless it has been amended or additional privileges granted, but the same shall be considered returned by reference to the copies filed as required by this section.

Section 2. That the Comptroller shall not be bound to accept the valuation assigned to such franchises in the return made, but it shall be his right and duty, with the advice and assistance of the Attorney General and the State Treasurer, to review the same, and in case of his refusal to accept the return, he shall then assess the said franchise or franchises and all subsequent proceedings shall be in all particulars the same as are now provided by law in the case of this refusal to accept the returns made by railroad companies of their physical property, and said franchise shall be taxed at the same rate as other property upon the valuation thereof returned or if the value returned is not accepted, upon the valuation as above ascertained, the said tax to be levied and collected as now provided, or may from time to time be provided in the case of the property of railroad companies. All tax herein provided for shall be assessed for the purpose of taxation at the same time and in the same manner as other property that may be assessed under the law governing the assessment of the physical property of railroad companies, and that there shall be a levy on the assessed valuation of such franchises at the same rate of taxation as may be levied on other property.

Section 3. That in the case of all special franchises exercised beyond the limits of one municipality or county, as in the case of telephone or telegraph lines, or railroads or steamboats, the returns provided for in section one (1), shall show the number of miles over which said railroad or telegraph or telephone franchise, or other special franchise, are exercised in each county and in each municipal division within said State, in like manner as railroad companies are now required to make returns of their physical property.

Section 4. That the valuation for taxation of such franchises in each county and municipality in or through which said franchise is exercised, shall be apportioned to each county and municipality as is now provided by law for the apportionment of the property of railroad companies.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

Indifferently it was received, in that sort of way that a thing is taken when it cannot be avoided.

It was read, it went over under the rules at the instance of its introducer, as it would have gone without his asking, and another document that failed of its mission in making history was buried in obscurity.

Investigation, however, was the thing on the mind of those who wanted to get the lid pried off of the doings of the Trustees. They had promised the folks back home that they were coming to Tallahassee to make things hum in the investigating business, and the Trustees were to be lewowed to a finish.

The line of battle not being considered sufficiently strong by the first two resolutions offered, another formation was driven into position by Mr. Knight of Citrus, who offered a concurrent resolution providing a committee composed of two members of the House and one of the Senate, to examine the accounts and transactions of the Trustees, from 1889 to January 1, 1907, and to call for all books, minute books, day books, bank books, check books and numerous other books—the gentleman failed to demand the production of pocket books, prayer books, hymn books, pass books and commissary checks—documents, papers, archives, etc.; get accountants and dig, dig deep down to '89, showing what the Trustees had been doing since that time, and appropriate sufficient money to carry out the provisions of the resolution. That's all.

Mr. Griggs, of Franklin, gently asked why select '89 as a starting point. If the investigation was to be done, why not begin at the creation of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Knight thought that all important matters would be covered in the period he named, but was willing to concede the point raised by Mr. Griggs, and begin at the first instance, and would submit to amendment on the second reading of the resolution—when the pocket, prayer, hymn, pass, and good, bad and indifferent books may be demanded.

Richard Barry, author of a peonage story in Florida, and W. R. Hearst, the publisher, were subjects of a resolution of condemnation, introduced by Representative Dorman, which was warmly received by the House. Mr. Knight, of Citrus, made a few remarks, laudatory of the resolution in which he got a chance to work over time the pleasing but time-worn expressions—"Our fair State"—"Our beloved State"—to such telling effect that the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Dupont, of St. Johns, asked that distilled water be furnished the House, and his resolution was adopted, Steve Melton, however, failing to say aye, as he sat with a far-away look, probably wondering why water should be distilled when there were so many other things to distill.

Concurrent resolutions were introduced, providing for the appointment of joint committees to visit the University of Florida, the Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, the Reform School, at Marianna, and convicts and convict camps of the State.

Eight bills were introduced in the House yesterday. Two of them local bills, one applying to Escambia county and one to Lake, were advanced to third reading and passed without dissent.

Representative Carter introduced a bill to encourage the oyster industry and define certain riparian rights. Two bills were introduced concerning changes in the pension laws, one by Mr. Neel, of Jackson, the other by Mr. Russell, of Putnam. The feature of the latter bill is to abolish the property oath. Mr. Russell says that many times a veteran may be in need of a pension, being disabled, yet will possess a home only, which may be of value in excess of the \$800, which, under the present law, the applicant to receive a pension must swear he is not worth that amount.

Mr. Lowe, of Madison, offered a bill providing for separate waiting rooms for the races, with power for the Railroad Commission to enforce.

A bill relating to the powers of the Railroad Commission and to enable it to supervise the physical condition of roads was introduced by Mr. Kilgore, of Sumter.

The House adjourned at 12 o'clock to meet today at 10 a. m.

Representative Farris, of Duval, will today introduce a bill prohibiting child labor.

A bill to abolish capital punishment in Florida will be introduced in a few days.